



JOSEPH R. BIDEN, III  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
820 NORTH FRENCH STREET  
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801

CONTACT JASON MILLER  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER  
PHONE (302) 577-8949  
CELL (302) 893-8939  
Jason.Miller@state.de.us

## Media Release

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### **Biden secures over \$1 million in federal funding to expand the fight against child predators**

**Wilmington, DE** – Today, Attorney General Beau Biden announced that the Delaware Child Predator Task Force has been awarded \$1.1 million in federal grant funding to continue and expand its fight against online child sexual exploitation. Nearly half of the award comes from the federal Recovery Act, also known as stimulus funds. The awards will be used to enhance Delaware's ability to conduct proactive undercover online enticement and child pornography cases, increase its capacity to prosecute cases, and fund law enforcement training and public outreach.

"The significant new funding that we have received, with the strong support of the Obama Administration, will allow us to expand our fight against child predators despite the lack of additional state funding," Attorney General Biden stated. "I believe we are building the best Child Predator Task Force in the country, and it will use these new resources to continue to proactively uncover the threats to our kids and take dangerous predators off the streets in every corner of our state."

The Delaware's Child Predator Task Force has been awarded \$1,105,000 from the US Department of Justice through three separate grants, including:

- \$437,000 in Federal Recovery Act funds (4-year grant)
- \$200,000 in renewal Internet Crimes Against Children funds (1-year grant)
- \$468,000 in Community-Oriented Policing Services funds (2-year grant)

Together, these grants will be used to:

- Hire additional staff to support child predator investigations
- Train first responders and other law enforcement on procedures for addressing 911 calls reporting child predator offenses
- Assist Delaware State Police in tracking down fugitives who use Delaware as a safe haven and/or have failed to register as sex offenders as required by law
- Pay equipment needs and operational expenses

Biden also reviewed the Task Force's success to-date. Since its establishment in 2007 it has conducted over 100 investigations, and 70 cases have resulted in criminal sentences. Moreover, 55% of its cases in 2009 resulted from proactive investigations conducted by Task Force member agencies.

The Delaware Child Predator Task Force, established in June, 2007 by the Delaware Department of Justice and Delaware State Police, is responsible for coordinating online child exploitation investigations and prosecutions statewide. Its members include every local police agency in Delaware, along with federal law enforcement agencies.

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